



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: 2/2/2022
RE: HB0060 Environment – New Motor Vehicles – Pollution Fee

The MLLC supports HB0060 Environment – New Motor Vehicles – Pollution Fee

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0060.

According to Hispanic Access Foundation Latinos are 165% more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of particulate matter pollution, and 51% more likely to live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone than are non-Hispanic whites. As emissions from the transportation sector currently account for the largest percentage of greenhouse gas emissions in the country (29%) (Fast Facts on Transportation Greenhouse Gas Emissions | US EPA), it is imperative that we decrease greenhouse gas emissions and hold polluters accountable.¹

This bill establishes a registration pollution fee on each new motor vehicle sold or registered in the state with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency carbon dioxide pollution rating equal to or higher than the minimum pollution level. This fee will be deposited into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to go towards providing rebates on the sale of electric vehicles, purchasing electric transit and school buses, and expanding electric vehicle infrastructure. The additional cost could be a deterrent to potential buyers to buy high polluting vehicles. This can potentially reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that affect Latino families in highly polluted counties. In addition, low-income households, including those in underrepresented communities and in disadvantaged communities could benefit from policies reducing transportation electrification.²

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0060. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support

1. <https://www.hispanicaccess.org/climate-change-greenhouse-gases>
2. Hardman, S., Fleming, K. L., Khare, E., & Ramadan, M. M. (2021, December 20). *A perspective on equity in the transition to electric vehicles*. MIT Science Policy Review. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <https://sciencepolicyreview.org/2021/08/equity-transition-electric-vehicles/>